

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

I claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising: one or more biologically pure *mutans streptococci* strains selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus rattus*, *Streptococcus rattus* strain JH145, *Streptococcus rattus* strain JH145 (~~ldh, str~~) (str), *Streptococcus cricetus*, *Streptococcus mutans*, *Streptococcus sobrinus*, *Streptococcus downeii*, *Streptococcus macacae*, and *Streptococcus ferus*; wherein said *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient; a biologically pure *Streptococcus oralis* strain PTA-11407; and a biologically pure *Streptococcus uberis* strain PTA-11408.
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a carrier.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the one or more biologically pure *mutans streptococci* strains are naturally-occurring mutants that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) A food composition comprising the composition of claim 1.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently Amended) The food composition of claim [[1]] 9, wherein the one or more biologically pure *mutans streptococci* strains are naturally-occurring mutants that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Previously Presented) A dentifrice, oral rinse, chewing gum, lozenge, or topical agent composition comprising the composition of claim 1.
14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the one or more biologically pure *mutans streptococci* strains are naturally-occurring mutants that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Original) A method for maintaining oral health of a subject comprising administering the composition of claim 1 to an oral cavity of a subject.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the subject is a mammal.
19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is administered to the subject about once a day, about once a week, or about once a month.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein maintaining oral health comprises the treatment of periodontitis, dental caries, *Candida* or fungal overgrowth, halitosis, xerostomia-induced dental caries or periodontal disease, oral bacterial infections, oral bacterial disease, oral wounds or a combination thereof.
21. (Previously Presented) A method of colonizing an oral cavity of a subject with therapeutically-effective bacteria comprising administering to the oral cavity of the subject the composition of claim 1.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the composition is administered to the subject about once a day, about once a week, or about once a month.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the subject is a mammal.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is administered to the subject about one or more times per day.
31. (Canceled)